



State and Region Parliaments

News Bulletin

Kachin State-based Media Meets Three Pillars of Democracy



October 24, 2019

With the aim of promoting faster dissemination of information across Kachin State, the Kachin State-based media, organized by Myanmar Press Council, met with the three pillars of Kachin State on 30th September.

Difficulties and challenges faced by the media of the State in getting information from the three pillars and for the media to facilitate for an easier dissemination of information from the three were discussed.

A question on the Hluttaw website not being up to date and requests on appointing a Hluttaw communication officer, a spokesperson for the Military MPs for the Hluttaw question session, to release report data in regards to Q&A session of the Hluttaw and to

hold a press conference after Hluttaw sessions were made by the media team.

When replying to the media by Deputy Speaker U Dain Khan Phone @ U Khan Lin in response to these questions and requests, he stated that both the Speaker and him have agreed to allow media to have access to information outside of Hluttaw and that he would try to find out the reason why the Hluttaw staffs would deny the media request on such information. He claimed that he has concerns in releasing information when it comes to issues that they have not yet found the solutions and that Hluttaw would not release any information that has yet to be approved. He also agreed that the contact numbers of MPs being out of date is a possible

situation. Regarding the request to hold a press conference after every Hluttaw session, he stated that organizing the MPs would not be easy as most of them have to come attend the session from remote areas. Thus, the timing (to hold a press conference) would be best when meeting with the three pillars. He also added that he has told the MPs to answer the questions and that he would appoint a spokesperson on behalf of the Military MPs to answer the questions.

After the meeting was adjourned, it was reported that the Kachin State reporters will establish Kachin Journalist Network and that the Myanmar Press Council would support any requirements in doing so.

Reference: Myitkyina News Journal

Regional Hluttaw Representative Points out the Companies That Won the Tender But Avoiding To Operate

October 27, 2019

A Bago Region Hluttaw representative stated that in Bago Region, there are companies that have received tender for the 2018-2019 Fiscal Year but have completely avoided to operate and have fled away.

The MP claimed that this includes the companies that have to build a school in Kyauktan Village Tract and Kun Paung village of Bago Township. In addition, the constructions of Kalayiteyoe and Shwe Gu Lay Bridges have been suspended. Similar situations are happening in Waw and other townships as well.

“We will take actions in accordance with the Tender Rules and Regulations. We have gathered precise information of both the region-based companies and companies from Bago Region ever since they applied for tenders in case of issues like these,” said one of the responsible persons of the Bago Region Government.

“The tender invitation started in October and the final choices are



Responsible persons at a field inspection of buildings built with the Union funds.
 (Photo- Bago Region Hluttaw)

made in December. Although operations commence in January, some companies are sluggish. So, when the operation coincides with the rainy season, some projects tend to be put on hold for three months when they are supposed to take only two weeks to one month to

wrap up. As it is a rainy season, they cannot continue their work but have to sit and wait instead. Thus, some companies had to face financial losses and had to suspend their projects,” said one of the responsible persons of the Bago Region Government.

Reference – Daily Myanmar Times

Questions Related to Land Confiscations by Tatmadaw Restricted in State Hluttaw

October 25, 2019

By using security concerns as a reason, the questions regarding land confiscation by Tatmadaw are not allowed to be asked in the Hluttaw, stated U Thae Reh, MP from Hpruso Township Constituency 1. He also said that this type of question is allowed only in Pyidaungsu Hluttaw. He said, “For example, if the issue has something to do with the Tatmadaw, it is related to security issues. As the law restricts that the security issues shall be discussed only at the Union level, there is a restriction.”

Some of the farmers from Demawso and Loikaw are facing charges relating to land confiscation by Tatmadaw. They are charged with Section 447 of the Penal Code (Encroaching) and Public Property Protection Act Section 6/1 respectively.

U Thae Reh commented that the response by the concerned minister is rather not on point regarding the question on the actions taken by the State Government for the lands that are already registered through Form - 7 among the lands confiscated by the Tatmadaw. “The answer to the question on the plans they have in mind for the case in which the lands that are registered with Form -7 are also included in the lands confiscated by the Tatmadaw is side-tracked. Hence, this is not the answer that we want,” he said.

U Aung Naing Oo, MP, analysed that as the permission to question on land confiscations by Tatmadaw is not

granted at the State/Region Hluttaw Level as there is a law for it, the confiscated lands would be returned to the owners only when the Tatmadaw releases the lands regardless of whom the government in power is. “Every land would be returned only if the military decides to release them. There is no chance of having them back unless they release them. It doesn’t matter who the government is,” stated U Aung Naing Oo.

U Thae Reh said he would find a chance to question on whether or not the Tatmadaw has plans to release all the confiscated lands if the public requests them to do so in the upcoming Hluttaw session.

Up till 6th August, 2019, during the 2nd Hluttaw term, there is a total of 122 complaint letters from the public. Among them, 94 complaint letters accounts for those that shall be resolved by the Speaker, 6 accounts for the “Work-in-process” letters and complaint letters that relates to land confiscation of Tatmadaw, reported the Complaint and Appeal Survey Team.

According to the report by the Complaint and Appeal Survey Team which examined the nature of complaints received by the Complaint and Appeal Committee and the actions taken by the committee in response to these complaints during these three years, there is a land confiscation case concerning to Tatmadaw - Land Case of Dawsoshay village and Amata 360 Battalion-being noted to put on hold.

Reference – Kantarawaddy Times



Discussion and Recommendation Event by Nyein Foundation and Sandhi Governance Institute (Photo- MNA)

Mon Hlutaw Survey States That Mon State Development Committee Is Weak in Taking Actions against Encampments

October 24, 2019

One public survey carried out by the Mon State Hluttaw indicates that the Mon State Development Committee is weak in taking actions against encampments that are around the perimeters of roads and parks.

The survey was led by Mon Hluttaw with the technical support of Nyein Foundation and Sandhi Governance Institute and was asked to 300 respondents. 68% of the respondents stated that they have not seen the development committee taking legal actions against the encampments.

“For example, somebody throws a litter. As you cannot identify that “somebody”, it is difficult to charge a fine. We can accept this. But activities such as constructing buildings

without discipline and constructing buildings inside the municipal boundary without approval suggest going against the rules. As there haven’t been actions taken for such activities, people have become to repeatedly commit the offence. There includes a finding in the survey report that the development committee lacks in taking actions against such offences,” said Daw Khaing Khaing Leh, MP of Mon State Hluttaw. She added that the invaders shall be removed from the municipal boundary by the development committee and some areas require negotiations with the General Administration Department (GAD), Road Department and the traffic police. She also commented on the weakness in networking among the government departments.

U Tet Htut Naing from Nyein Foundation stated that although the Mon State Development Law was enacted in 2017, the implementation process has not yet completed in whole.

The survey contains 37 questions. Among the findings, 86% of the respondents said that the development of their town/ward has a progress compared to the last five years but 35% answered that the drainage system has become worse compared to last year’s.

The Director of the Mon State Development Committee said, “When I had to hear about our weaknesses, I had a feeling that we have to find out the areas we need to improve. We will draw up implementation plans, projects and budget estimates to tackle our weaknesses.”

Reference – Mon News Agency

Allocation of US 25 million dollars Aid Money from India Asked in Rakhine Hluttaw

September 25, 2019

One of the MPs of Rakhine State Hluttaw questions on how the aid money of US \$25 millions from India has been used for the benefit of the locals.

This question was submitted by State Hluttaw Representative U Maung Than Sein a.k.a U Maung Maung (Kyauktaw Constituency -2) on 24th September.

“I am asking this question as it was announced that out of the 25 million dollars, 13.543427 million dollars allocated for townships for the period of 5 years would be used for 17 townships in 5 years but there isn’t a statement for the remaining US \$11.456573 millions,” said the MP.

In response to this question, Minister U Kyaw Aye Thein from the Ministry of Finance and Planning replied that, “An estimate of 4 million dollars was spent for building 250 houses for Hindu people. Till now, there are 22 projects drawn up according to the meeting that includes Pyidaungsu Hluttaw/State Hluttaw Representatives arranged by the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief & Resettlement. The cost of these projects is round about 4 million dollars. The balance is a positive of 17 million dollars.”

U Maung Than Sein, the MP, suggested that the Rakhine State Government should choose to undertake projects that will have benefits in return of doing so.

Reference – Narinjara